The Connecticut Historical Society

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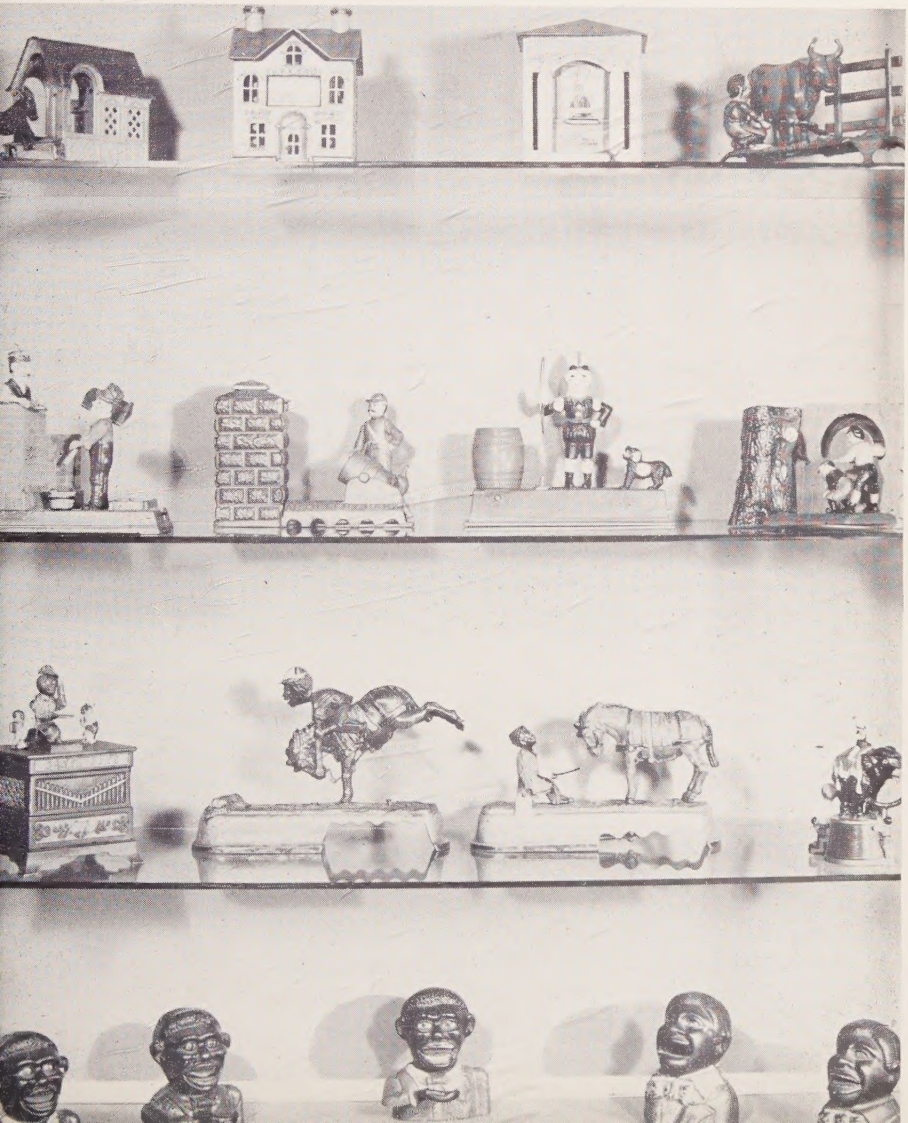

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COVER:

One of the cases, Gallery 2, displaying mechanical toy banks on exhibition, The Connecticut Historical Society, July through September, 1955

Connecticut Historical Society
BULLETIN

Volume 20 Hartford, July 1955 Number 3

Mechanical Toy Banks

Gathering the mechanical toy banks for our exhibit, Gallery 2, June through September, has been a rare pleasure. As the banks came in from the collections of Dr. W. G. Downes of West Hartford, Michael Wolek, West Hartford, and Charles A. Currier of Simsbury, we could not help but wonder at the inexhaustible variety of subjects whereby a penny in the bank will produce not just one, but in some instances as many as three mechanical actions.

As an example, the catalogues of the J. & E. Stevens Company and other miscellaneous material on loan from Mark Haber of Wethersfield, tell us that by placing a coin held by the girl in the Speaking Dog Bank and pressing a lever, "the girl's arm moves quickly and deposits the coin through a trapdoor in the bench. At the same time the dog opens and closes his mouth as if speaking, and also wags his tail." As for the Eagle Bank, instructions are to "place a coin in the eagle's beak, press the lever, and the eaglets rise from the nest, actually crying for food. As the eagle bends forward to feed them, the coin falls in the nest and disappears in the receptacle below."

In the Bad Accident Bank, by placing a coin under the feet of the driver and pressing the lever, "the boy jumps into the road, frightening the donkey, and as he rears, the cart and driver are thrown backwards, when the coin falls into the body of the cart and disappears." For the Cabin Bank, we are told to "place the coin upon the roof above the negro's head, move the handle of the white-wash brush, and the negro will be made to stand on his head and kick the coin in the bank." To operate the Little Fat Man Bank [or Tammany Bank] "place a coin in his hand and see how promptly he pockets it, and how politely he bows his thanks." In the Educated Pig Bank, the pig catches the coin in his mouth, moves his tongue and then swallows it, or the hen [Hen and Chicken Bank], by placing a coin in front of her and pressing the lever, calls the chicken which "springs from under her for the coin which disappears."

Such inventions as mechanical banks could not remain forgotten long, and they readily deserve their present status of rare collectors items, worth many times their original price. With them goes an equally interesting history, best recorded in a book entitled *Mechanical Toy Banks* by Louis H. Hertz, published by Mark Haber, 1947, from which the following facts are learned and due to space limitations, are briefly stated here.

Mechanical toy banks date back to a few years after the Civil War until its final period about 1928 when the mechanical bank industry, led by the J. & E. Stevens Company, was supplanted by modern and easier methods of production. As they are remembered, and seen in our exhibition, the true mechanical bank was made of cast iron, was hand finished and painted by special decorators or "stripers" who did the lining, eyes and small detail work. "Trying" was a term used when the final bank was tested, prior to packing in its individual wooden box, to see that all was in working condition.

Banks were produced on a mass-production scale, with almost every design patented. The patent usually applied to the mechanism, and its features applied to any bank of its type. The Jolly Nigger bank patent also covered Humpty Dumpty, and the Creedmore patent of 1877 applied to all shooting banks for the next seventeen years. The patent design covered one specific design of a house, figure, or whatever was intended to be portrayed, which prevented anyone from manufacturing a similar-looking article. These latter patents covered a variety of time, and usually the shortest and least expensive of three and a half years. The first patent, No. 70,569 issued November, 1867 to Kellis Horde of Washington, D.C., was manufactured in tin and operated by blowing into a tube so that an alligator, or similar figure, would emerge from a shelter, take the coin in its mouth and retire. Though the patents are helpful in identifying a bank, they do not necessarily mean that the bank was ever put into production, and if it was, it does not mean that production can be dated by the patent alone since many had an intervening seventeen years before they needed to be placed on the market.

A variety of subjects were used: the cartoon type of Happy Hooligan, Foxy Grampa, the Katzenjammer Kids, the Shoot the Chutes bank featuring Buster Brown and his dog Tige. There were mythical people, the Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe, Punch and Judy, Little Red Riding Hood, Santa Claus, Uncle Remus and others. Some had a disputed political significance such as the Tammany Bank, the Freedman Bank, Teddy [Roosevelt] and the Bear, or General Butler in the form of a frog; and there were Uncle Sam, William Tell, the Stump Speaker Bank, and many, many others.

Leader in the field was the Stevens foundry in Cromwell, Connecticut, which began as the J. & E. Stevens Company, the oldest toy manufacturing firm in the United States, and bears the distinction of being the original and most prolific manufacturer of mechanical banks. The company was established by John and Elisha Stevens in 1843. It developed from the production of hardware items, coat and hat hooks, pins, door buttons, shutter screws, axes, tack and shoe hammers as well as some toys and toy parts. By 1853 the Stevens company was making miniature sad iron stands and iron wheels for children's toy wagons. No direct evidence is given as to the introduction of iron banks into the company, although it is believed that the event occurred between 1869 and 1871 when the earliest Stevens bank, Hall's Excelsior, was patented on December 21, 1869.

It is impossible to relate the history of this company without mentioning some of the men who made it famous. There entered into the firm one Russell Frisbie who, like the earlier John Hall, had given his talents to the Stevens company as inventor and designer of mechanical banks. In 1866

he became associated with the firm as general superintendent, designer and inventor. In 1868 Edward S. Coe, nephew of the Stevens brothers, was connected with the company as bookkeeper, as treasurer in 1872, and finally as president in 1898, retaining both positions until 1907. Coe died in 1926 and Russell Frisbie's son, Charles B. Frisbie, became president, indicating a continuous Stevens-Frisbie family affair. The last mechanical banks made by the Stevens company, the old favorites of Teddy and the Bear, William Tell and others, continued until 1928 when the cap pistol crowded out the banks as a more profitable line of production.

Nor is Charles A. Bailey to be overlooked in his connection with the Stevens foundry. He was born September 16, 1848, was raised in Cobalt, and there had a small shop in back of his house where he perfected his art of pattern making and designing of toys. Where he got his training is not known, except that he was born and raised in and around the heart of the toy industry, and as he passed it on to others in his later life, so must he have learned it with the same intensity. His first bank patent was issued in 1879 for a still watch bank. 1880 is the year given for his first mechanical bank—the Baby Elephant Bank which "opens at 10:00." In 1882 his Cat and Mouse Bank appeared, cast in white metal. Though a free-lancer and manufacturer on his own in Cobalt, Russell Frisbie saw Bailey's worth to the trade, and he was induced to join the Stevens company on a permanent basis. In 1916 Bailey, best pattern maker and designer of the Stevens Company, went again into business on his own, with letter-head reading, in the 1920's:

CHARLES A. BAILEY
MECHANICAL TOYS, NOVELTIES, SPECIAL MACHINERY, ARTISTIC BRASS PATTERNS, MODELING OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, DIE SINKING, MOULD-MAKING, MODEL MAKING ETC. INVENTIONS PUT IN PRACTICAL SHAPE TO MANUFACTURE A SPECIALTY

Cromwell, Conn., — — — — — — — 192 —

It is said that when Bailey was permanently connected with the Stevens company, he designed, invented or made the pattern for almost every bank they produced. He was a skilled craftsman, as Jerome Secor might be termed an artist, and his work was more than a mere source of income. It was not unusual for Bailey to produce a small model of his bank, buy and mix the paints and decorate the banks himself. Most of the rare surviving models are said to be done by him. Charles A. Bailey died February 14, 1926, leaving a distinct gap in a highly specialized field.

While the Stevens company and its associates were making history in the mechanical bank trade, Jerome Secor, born in Liberty Village, New York on October 8, 1839, was holding his own as one of the great names in the toy industry. Actually, his course had been a devious one since toys were his side-line and hobby, and it was through the failure of the Secor Sewing Machine Company of Bridgeport, following the panic of 1876, that his mind seriously turned to the business of making mechanical toys. He had purchased half of a double house on West Avenue in Bridgeport, and found that the owner and occupant of the other half was none other than Edward Ives, then on his way to fame as America's foremost toy manufacturer.

Through association with Ives, Secor perfected and started the manufacturing of mechanical singing birds in cages. The music came from a box at the base, and Secor not only invented the design, but also the tools and composed the song. The bird was covered with real feathers and was wired to move to the rhythm of the tune. He invented a series of clockwork toys—the Freedman Bank, a white girl in a lace-trimmed dress playing the piano, and a series of four negros, one playing a banjo, another shaking a tambourine, another shaking a castanet, and the last waving a round fan. In the Freedman bank the hand was so constructed, with separate brass fingers which operated independently of each other, that the figure would smile, turn his head, scoop the coin across the table top into the hole in the surface, raise his other hand to his face, thumb his nose, and finally shake his head. Other inventions were the "mechanical warbler," "Secor's Improved Songster," "The American Gold Finch," as well as another type of toy—the cast iron clockwork locomotive. In 1884 Secor sold out to Ives, and in 1899 he left Bridgeport for Derby, Connecticut, to take charge of the Williams Typewriter Company, which eventually became the Secor Typewriter Company. He continued to make his toys, as he always had—as a hobby and side-line—until almost the very end, September 18, 1923, when he died at the age of 84.

Mechanical banks took hold, and it was natural that a score of companies were not to be outdone by the established firms who got on the bandwagon first. An astonishing number of firms, covering such areas as Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Buffalo, Trenton, Cleveland, Keene, New Hampshire, Culver City, California, New Market, Ontario, Canada, were in the business. Connecticut alone could boast of the H. L. Judd Company, Wallingford, Smith and Egge Manufacturing Company, Bridgeport, Mechanical Novelty Company, New Britain, Burdick-Corbin Company, Hartford, Ives & Company, Ives, Blakesley & Company, Ives, Blakesley & Williams, Ives & Williams, Ives Manufacturing Company, Ives Corporation, all of Bridgeport, and the Stevens company with its various names, of Cromwell.

Even though the old cast iron mechanical bank has disappeared from the assembly line, it has continued in a number of forms. Take, for instance, the pulp composition Hitler Pig Bank, produced in 1942 by the Otis-Lawson Company, New York, N.Y. In 1946 this same firm brought out a colored plastic mechanical Pig Bank which grunts when a coin is inserted—a far cry, but in principal the same as what we remembered and liked, the fun and entertainment of an ingenious invention, the mechanical toy bank.

This is a case of something which happened during the life-time of many of us, and yet specific records are still lacking in many instances and good specimens of the banks are extremely difficult to locate. In these brief remarks, we have indicated the importance of some Connecticut men and firms in the designing and production of mechanical banks. This is well within the scope of The Connecticut Historical Society, and it is to be hoped that a representative collection of these banks will ultimately be preserved in the Society. Manuscripts, photographs and printed material would be appreciated so that those interested in further research on the subject may have access to the information.

The Higley Coppers 1737 - 1739

by RICHARD D. MOORE

in collaboration with Cyril H. Hawley, Hartford Numismatic Society

Connecticut became the birthplace of copper coinage in America when the Higley Coppers were issued. Beyond this accepted fact writers seem to have studiously ignored the recorded facts in preference to folklore and conjecture. So much of an erroneous nature has been written about the Higley Coppers and their originator, that the writer feels it high time that the facts be separated from the fiction. One outstanding point of controversy has been and continues to be, particularly in numismatic circles, whether the pieces were struck by Dr. Samuel Higley or his eldest brother John. In all numismatic references and most purportedly historical ones, John receives the sole credit. It is our contention, based on records and *family* legends, that the honor rightfully belongs to Samuel Higley and we offer the following in substantiation of our claim.

Samuel Higley was the fourth son and eighth child of Captain John and Hannah Drake Higley of Simsbury. He was born about 1687 in the Higley homestead, formerly the old Simon Wolcot farm situated on the west side of the Farmington River about a mile northwesterly from the "Falls", where Tariffville now stands. At an early age he showed the same energy and excellent mental alertness which made his father a leader and one of the important men of early Simsbury. Thus he was given every opportunity to attain an excellent education and he eagerly took advantage of this. His formal education culminated in two years at Yale University, after which he became a school teacher. With this background, he now felt ready for the serious effort which would gain him the realization of a childhood ambition. He undertook the study of physics and surgery under Drs. Thomas Hooker and Samuel Mather of Hartford. His success in this endeavor enabled him to become a licensed practicing physician.

Dr. Samuel Higley and his wife Abigail, whom he married in 1719, settled on property in Turkey Hills which he had received from the estate of his father five years previously. Although never forsaking doctoring, with-

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NOTE: An exhibit of United States Coins from the Society's Collection may be seen in the First Floor Exhibition Room. The first Case on the left as you enter contains types of regular issue United States coins in all denominations from 1793 to date. In the second Case are rarities including a Half Disme of 1792. Washington supplied some of his own private plate for these first mint coins. The portrait on these pieces is presumed to be that of Martha Washington. In Case #2 is also one of the finest known specimens of the extremely rare 1799 large cents. Opposite Case #1, on the other side of the room, in Case #4, is an arrangement of Connecticut Cents 1785-1788, and two commemorative half dollars; one honoring The Connecticut Tercentenary, 1935 and the other the Bridgeport, Connecticut Centennial, 1936. The remaining Case contains private and state coinage issues of Colonial America. In this display are two of the Higley Coppers discussed in the foregoing article. These were recently acquired after an extensive search of several years and may well be considered the prize numismatic possession of the Society.

Higley Copper, 1739, Type 4, Obverse (left), Reverse D (right)

in a short time he was busily engaged in another interest, that of experimenting with the smelting and refining of iron ore. This adventure in the science of metallurgy proved a successful one, for in 1727 he discovered a process for the manufacture of steel and thus became the first American to pave the way to the future great steel industries of our country. In 1728 Dr. Higley presented a petition to the General Court stating that "he hath with great pains and costs, found out and obtained a curious art, by which to convert, change or transmute common iron into good steel, sufficient for any use, and was the very first that ever performed such an operation in America, having the most perfect knowledge thereof confirmed by many experiments". His petition for an exclusive right to manufacture the article was granted for 10 years on condition that he bring it to reasonable perfection in two years time.

That same year he purchased a large tract of land about a mile and a half south of the Simsbury Copper Mines on Copper Hill (the same mines which were to become in 1773 "a public gaol and work house for the use of the Colony, to which was given the name of Newgate Prison.") Upon his property, Higley located copper and proceeded to open up a shaft which ever since has been known as the Higley Mine. The mine is now on the property of the Wimpfheimers and lies easterly of the road that leads from Tariffville to Newgate. There are two shafts still visible, although completely choked with debris. The richness of the ore has been attested by noted geologists. The average yield was about 15% with some ore yielding as high as 40%. Most of the ore was sent to England. To do so necessitated transporting it in wagons over the steep, mountainous hills, and rough roads newly made through the wilds of the forests, to a shipping point on the Connecticut River.

Despite the demands of his profession and various enterprises, Dr. Higley drew upon his remarkable genius and inventive faculties and designed and manufactured the first copper coinage of the country from the ore of his own mine. The dearth of metallic money in America undoubtedly was the inducement that led to their manufacture. Although there was no authorization by the colony for this coinage, neither was there any prohibition of it and the issue of the pieces seems to have continued for a period of three years—from 1737-1739 inclusive—specimens being extant, bearing these dates, though none are known dated 1738. There are five types of obverses comprising eight obverse dies, and four types of reverses from five reverse dies.

TYPE NO. 1. OBVERSE

Device—A deer, standing, facing left.
Legend—A hand, pointing. THE • VALVE • OF •THREE • PENCE •

REVERSE A

Device—Three hammers, each bearing a crown.
Legend—A star. CONNECTICVT • 1737 • a crescent.

TYPE NO. 2. OBVERSE

Device—A deer, standing, facing left.
Legend—A hand, pointing. VALVE • ME • AS • YOU • PLEASE • a star.
In exergue—The Roman numerals III within scroll work; a crescent beneath.

Higley Copper, 1737, Type 3, Obverse (left), Reverse C (right)

REVERSE B

Device—Three hammers, each bearing a crown.
Legend—A hand, pointing. I • AM • GOOD • COPPER • an arrangement of dots. 1737

TYPE NO. 3. OBVERSE

Device—A deer, standing, facing left, a crescent above.
Legend—A hand, pointing. VALUE • ME • AS • YOU • PLEASE • a star.
In exergue—The Roman numerals III within scroll work; a crescent beneath.

REVERSE C

Device—A broad axe.
Legend—A hand, pointing. J • CUT • MY • WAY • THROUGH •

TYPE NO. 4. OBVERSE

Device—A deer, standing, facing left, a crescent above.
Legend—A hand, pointing. VALUE • ME • AS • YOU • PLEASE a star.
In exergue—The Roman numerals III within scroll work; a crescent beneath.

REVERSE D

Device—A broad axe.
Legend—A hand, pointing. J • CUT • MY •WAY • THROUGH • 1739.

The foregoing classifications are from *The Early Coins of America* by Sylvester S. Crosby, Boston, 1875. They are accepted as the standard classification of Higley Coppers. However, since the publication of this work, a single specimen of a Higley Copper with an entirely different obverse has been found. We will designate it and describe it as follows:

TYPE NO. 5. OBVERSE

Device—A spoked wheel.
Legend— A hand, pointing. THE • WHEELE • GOES • ROUND. •
This specimen has a Reverse C, and is undated.

Specimens of the Higley copper have become very rare. Crosby states in his *Early Coins of America* that

"These coppers, owing to the fine quality of the metal of which they were composed, were much in favor as an alloy for gold, and it is probably due in part to this cause that they are now so extremely rare. We are informed of an old goldsmith, aged about seventy-five years, that during his apprenticeship, his master excused himself for not having finished a string of gold beads at the time appointed, as he was unable to find a Higley copper with which to alloy the gold; thus indicating that they were not easily obtained sixty years ago." (1815)

They are as scarce on the Continent as in America despite the fact that

records show that when the war in France in 1745 expanded our foreign trade, considerable quantities of the Higley coppers were circulated in England in payment of war expenses.

In Mary Coffin Johnson's genealogy *The Higleys and Their Ancestry*, New York, 1896, she states "There is a traditional story afloat, which was told to the writer by an elderly gentleman living in the vicinity (Copper Hill) who used to hear his aged father and the old men of the neighborhood say that in some spots the deposit of copper in the mine was so rich and of such fineness that Higley was in the habit of entering his mine with a pick, obtaining a lump of almost pure metal, and making a coin, with which he would, in his liking for convivial enjoyment, make himself doubly welcome over the social mug at the nearest tavern." While such an incident may have occurred, we doubt that a man of Dr. Samuel's means and importance would resort to such a practice and we dislike the implication which may be inferred and therefore consider it in the light of an old settlers tale. In a like vein it is related of Higley, that being a frequent visitant at the public house, where at that time liquors were a common and unprohibited article of traffic, he was accustomed to pay his "scot" in his own coin, and the coffers of the dram-seller soon became overburdened with this kind of cash, of the type which proclaims its own value to be equal to which was then the price of a "potation,"—three pence. When complaint was made to Higley, upon his next application for entertainment, which was after a somewhat longer absence than was usual with him, he presented coppers bearing the words, "Value me as you please" "I am good copper."

Crosby says, "We cannot vouch for the truth of this 'legend,' but we believe those first issued bore the words, 'The value of three pence,' and, whatever the cause, subsequent issues more modestly requested the public to value them according to their own ideas of propriety."

We would like to point out that in all probability the coffers of the dram-seller contained little else of desirable hard money due to the scarcity of such medium.

Phelps, in his history of Simsbury states that "the coin is said to have passed for two and sixpence (42¢), in paper currency it is presumed."

While record and legend have established that Dr. Samuel Higley was the originator of the Higley Coppers, he could not have been responsible for all the issues as he met an untimely death about May, 1737 when he sailed for England in a ship laden with his own copper ore, which was lost at sea. It is more than probable that Dr. Higley's eldest brother John Higley, together with the Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, the early and close friend of Dr. Samuel Higley, and a William Cradock, made the issue of 1739.

A theory has been advanced that the wheel design issue (Type No. 5 Obverse) was the first attempt on the part of Dr. Higley's successors to proclaim that the venture was being continued. This is an interesting conjecture but, nevertheless, purely conjecture. Without question Dr. Higley's coinage venture proved profitable to him, and useful to the community, for soon after his death there were leading and noted citizens of the colony who made determined but unsuccessful efforts to continue a copper coinage.

Antique Furniture Seminar

During the past two years nearly 150 members have participated in the Antique Furniture Seminar conducted by Paul Koda. The results have been most satisfactory and it is hoped that sufficient registrants will be secured to warrant continuation of the series.

The schedule for 1955-1956 is as follows:

October 18, 1955, "Materials"
November 15, 1955, "Tools"
January 17, 1956, "Case Furniture"
February 21, 1956, "Frame Furniture"
March 20, 1956, "Restoration"
April 17, 1956, "Refinishing"

Sessions start promptly at 8:00 P. M. and close at 10:00 P. M., with a refreshment break in the middle. They are largely demonstration, but notes of each session are distributed to all registrants. It is suggested that if you care to take the course, for which there is no charge to members, it would be well to register early.

By request, we are printing the notes on "Restoration" which we believe to be of particular value. If through their publication one piece of antique furniture is saved from ruin, we will feel well rewarded.

RESTORATION

By PAUL KODA

SKILL

The most important requirement in restoring Antique Furniture is skill. Skill is an elusive part of knowledge which can be gained only by more or less practice, depending on the individual. We may watch the Craftsman perform complicated tasks, apparently without much difficulty, but unless we try ourselves, entirely by our own efforts, skill cannot be transplanted into our hands.

MARK OF THE HANDTOOL

The machine, in any form, leads us away from acquiring skill and true appreciation of the "toolmark." The finest examples in Cabinetmaking were achieved with simple tools skillfully handled. Considering these marks left on Antique Furniture by saws, planers, chisels and other simple devices, their elimination should be prevented by all means. This then is our guide in proper restoration: *Leave undisturbed all visible and concealed toolmarks.*

EXAMINATION

Carefully examine, in good light, the object to be restored. Make a list of the essential work to be done. Have each item on the list approved by all concerned before proceeding. Note improper restorations previously done; also parts missing, parts and hardware, coverings and finish added at a later date. Some of these can be discovered only after the surface is cleaned. If the article is not your own, point out these irregularities, else you may be blamed for them.

DISASSEMBLING

Great care must be exercised when furniture is taken apart. Use a block of wood in front of the hammer so the wood will not be hammer-marked. All joints on Case furniture can be separated in this way. On Frame furniture the members are joined in such a way that reverse pull is required to separate them. Turning the hooks about on the Cabinetmaker's Bench is the best way to do this. If, however, a bench is not part of the shop where the work is to be done, some other means have to be devised. A small lifting screw-jack, when inserted between a frame, will separate any joint with but a slight effort. Slight taps with a light hammer will start the joint to pull apart. Mark all the members immediately so that at the time of reassembly parts are not changed.

REPAIRS

All imperfections, large or small, should be repaired before reassembly. Use the same kind of wood as the piece was made of. This is where the seemingly valueless scrap pile can yield material so precious that it becomes the most important factor between a poor patch or work well done. Each Restorer has his pet way of placing or shaping the insertions. Try to follow the grain of the wood as nearly as possible and keep it in conformity with the part applied to. Repairs done in this manner never decrease the value of Antique Furniture; on the contrary, if entirely absent it is considered as unusual rather than the rule.

REASSEMBLING

It has been well stated by a skillful Cabinetmaker, whom I had the privilege of employing in my shop, that the assembly of furniture is a simple matter if the proper preparations are made. Much good work is ruined by haste and impatience. Bear in mind that all joints have to fit well. Trial assembly without applying glue is the margin where correction may be made. Have the proper blocks, clamps and tools ready for the work in hand. Assemble only as many parts at one time as the equipment permits. Check for trueness before the glue sets. Beside the ruler and square, parallel sticks used diagonally are of great aid. Clean off all excess glue before it hardens. Allow enough time for glue to set in joints before removing clamps.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS

a) Loose fitting dovetail joints should be filled out before assembly.

b) In mortise joints, the fill-out strip is applied to the tenon.

c) Open-end, turned and bored joints are rewedged. The concealed ones are difficult to correct. Filling the hole and reboring should be avoided. Strips of wood and counterwedging require the utmost skill. A good, substantial method is to wind, with glue, thin cloth on the round tenon. Let it dry until crispy hard. Then refit into socket.

d) Backboards on case furniture must have overlapping joints, with space left between for extension.

e) Drawers should be refitted before backboard is replaced. Fill out worn parts of runners and drawer sides.

f) Underframing of case furniture is usually secured by glue blocks. Heat these blocks and apply immediately into position where glue was spread. A slight pressure will quickly bind the block into place.

g) Correction should be made on table frames when leaves cannot fall to right angles. Considerable value is lost when tops are over-restored.

h) Warped and bent boards can be straightened out by application of moisture and heat. Use "cradle," or strips, when drying.

i) Leave the side rails of old beds as originally cut. It is better to make new rails if lengthening is required. By this, the value of the bed is retained.

j) When clear glass is desired in mirrors, the tarnished glass can be placed in back of the replacement and this noted on the backboard. Place paper between the two panes of glass.

EXPERIMENTS

Inexperienced restorers have destroyed more antique furniture than has time in its normal course. Training ourselves in the repair or making of new furniture should provide us with the necessary knowledge and skill. The Cabinetmaker, before considering himself fully qualified to restore a valuable example of antique furniture, ought to be sufficiently well trained to make a duplicate of the piece when called upon to do so. The conscientious amateur cannot be satisfied with anything less.

ALTERATION

Is it proper to alter a piece of antique furniture?

Example: A three drawer blanket chest, in order to receive a phonograph, radio or television set, must undergo considerable change in its upper structure, ruining the front panel entirely. In five years the set will be replaced by a more advanced model. When research places this chest in a category of importance, as all antique furniture eventually will be, the damage done cannot be corrected, and its value as an antique is lost.

Solution: If one does not wish to have an appliance in a contemporary cabinet, one can be designed and made that will harmonize with the traditional surroundings. This affords an opportunity to exercise our talents in furniture building.

OTHER CRAFTS

As pointed out in previous seminar sessions, other craftsmen besides the Cabinetmaker made important contributions to furniture making. In restoring, we must avail ourselves of their ability to do the particular work better. Unless we have mastered some of these skills, we should leave gilding, upholstering, carving, turning, decorative painting and other specialties to the trained person. Often the material and equipment required to do the job would cost more than the amount charged to us.

REPRODUCTIONS

Can antique furniture be truly reproduced?

It is impossible to accept as genuine antique any object that was not made in its own time. By faithful copying, it is possible to make an object which resembles its genuine counterpart so closely that it may confuse the most experienced student. To achieve such a high degree of similarity, more effort

must be put into making it than is generally possible in a commercial shop. Only very few artisans are able to produce fine enough examples to be accepted into this class. The desire to produce something good and beautiful is the strongest motivating power when it is attempted. Furniture made in the traditional styles, in the right manner, is not only permissible, but it is the aim of all the educational institutions like The Connecticut Historical Society to have on display examples for that purpose. Photographs, good drawings and models are of aid to the craftsman. No compromise as to material or workmanship should be permitted. The few instances where antiques should be supplemented by well made copies are: When the genuine piece is structurally too weak for service; when sets or pairs are to be matched, like chairs, beds, mirrors, etc.; when the desired example is so rare that only in this way can we ever hope to own one, and when our finances are limited.

PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR

It is generally expected that a person engaged in an occupation should know more about the subject than someone who pursues the same objective in his spare time. Assuming both have equal ability, can the amateur achieve the same results as the professional? If the four essential factors are weighed, we find of three—experience, equipment and materials—the professional has a great deal more. Of the fourth and most important element, which is time, the amateur has so much more that it may tip the scales in his favor if it is used to acquire the other three.

VALUATION

The value of any article is determined by the cost of its replacement. Antique furniture is practically irreplaceable, but when that is possible it is more difficult to do than to replace something that can be made today.

Human nature, being what it is, yearns to possess things hard to get. When the object has usefulness and beauty, the demand increases and is a good investment. While almost everything else depreciates from year to year, the value of antiques increases.

Values of specific types of antique furniture are affected by certain conditions. In the proper place a piece may be highly esteemed, and the same piece would be just a curiosity in the wrong environment. As heirlooms, antiques follow the fortunes of the members of a family.

When pertinent data is uncovered by research, it can raise the value of an article out of all proportion to its former self.

Illustrations in reference books, publications by museums, historical societies and magazines and listings in sales catalogues, all have bearing on the permanent value of a given piece.

When attribution to a maker is proved, a whole group may be affected.

Antique furniture, when bought for the home, is worth more than its counterpart on the market, and until we are ready to pay the same price as for a well-made new article, we cannot be considered serious students.

When assembled in collections, in their proper setting, the value of antiques is increased to the highest point. Private collectors are the governors of the ultimate price a recognized antique will reach. Many collections, or even single examples, are parts of museums and historical societies, serving to educate us long after their owners have departed.

APPRAISALS, COMMISSIONS

Appraisal of antique furniture is a difficult task and requires extensive training in recognizing the genuine from the spurious and ability to differentiate between common, average and examples of high quality. An appraiser should be actively engaged in this field so as market values change this will be applied accordingly. Appraisals for permanent collections, estates, insurance and for the open market are handled in different ways to be of benefit to all concerned. When someone is engaged to examine, describe, appraise or buy antique furniture, he is entitled to a fee as commission. The amount of this fee can be set on a percentage or overall basis.

LIST OF BOOKS

Books on antique furniutre were published in many hundreds of titles, but as reference the following are of importance to us in Connecticut:

Colonial Furniture in New England	Irving W. Lyon
Colonial Furniture in America	Luke V. Lockwood
Furniture Treasury	Wallace Nutting
American Antique Furniture	Edgar G. Miller
Eighteenth Century Clockmakers of Conn.	Penrose Hoopes
Pine Furniture of Early New England	R. H. Kettell

Some Rare Imprints

In the past year, four extremely rare titles were presented to the Society by Houghton Bulkeley of Hartford. These volumes came from the library of the late Morgan G. Bulkeley, father of the donor, and are further additions which greatly enhance the Society's outstanding collection of early imprints.

The first of these new acquisitions is a small volume, 32 pages, half morocco, gilt top, 4to, entitled *Tydings from Rome: or, England's Alarm. Wherein several Grounds to Suspect the Prevalency or the Popish Interests are seasonably suggested: Londons Ruine pathetically lamented: Arguments to disswade from the Popish Religion, are urged: And The Duties of Christians in this time of Common Danger, and Distraction, perswaded*, Printed in the Year 1668. This pamphlet was purchased through the Walpole Gallery auction held in New York, May 2, 1917. It was then the first copy to be discovered, and still holds the distinction of being the only perfect copy of three in existence.

To understand the history of *Tydings from Rome*, it is necessary to go back to the first printing press in America, managed by Steven Day and operated in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Day, a locksmith by trade, emigrated to this country in 1638 under contract to work for Reverend Jesse Glover of Sutton, Surrey, England. Glover brought with him a printing press costing twenty pounds, a set of type fonts, and sixty pounds worth of paper, but died before reaching Boston. His widow settled in Cambridge where she purchased a house for Steven Day and his family, and where the printing press was set up. The first imprint, *The Freeman's Oath*, appeared within six months. No copy can be located today. During the next ten years, Steven Day printed a number of titles of which nine have been located. On June 21, 1641 Day's benefactress, Mrs. Glover, married Henry Dunster, President of Harvard College, and the press was removed to his house on the site of Massachusetts Hall. Mrs. Dunster died in 1643 and Day, disliking Dunster, left the management of the press largely to his son, Matthew Day. By 1655, Steven Day had abandoned printing. He settled down to his former trade of locksmithing, remarried, joined the church, and died in Cambridge, December 22, 1668.

Samuel Green (1615–1702/02), undoubtedly printer of *Tydings of Rome*, became the manager of Dunster's press in 1649, after the retirement of Day and his son. There is no evidence that Green had served an apprenticeship with Dunster, Day, or anyone else, as he wrote of himself in 1675, "I was not [before] used to it." From 1649 to 1665, Samuel Green was the only printer in the English colonies, and one of his finest works was Eliot's Indian Bible, completed in 1663.

In 1660 Marmaduke Johnson, a printer trained in England, was sent over with a new set of type and orders to remain three years under the direction of The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England, Mr. John Eliot, and Samuel Green. Johnson produced sixteen publications with Green between 1660–1664, and thirty-five between 1665–1674, twenty of them being with Green. Though a fine printer in his own right, he was

The foure of the Indians fort or Palizado in
NEW ENGLAND
And the maner of the destroying
It by Captayne Vnderhill
And Captayne Mason
The Indians howses
RH

Original plate which appears in News from America:
John Underh

xperimental Discoverie of New England *by Captain*
ondon, 1638

soon in difficulties for debt, drinking and reportedly making love to Green's daughter when he already had a wife in England. In 1664 he was to be on his way to England, but appeared in Boston, May, 1665 with his own press and types, where he subsequently located. In 1674, a Boston press was officially permitted by the Massachusetts General Assembly with Marmaduke Johnson as owner, but he died on Christmas day, leaving John Foster the honor of being the first printer in Boston.

Johnson's difficulties with the authorities may well have led to an early press censorship in New England. Censorship, in 1667, meant the confiscation of many of our earliest imprints because 1) a printer had to operate with a license or 2) be under penalty of five pounds and 3) forfeit all copies. Green and Johnson appeared in General Court to give an account of their most recently published books, and produce their authority to print them. Johnson was fined for his copy of *Isle of Pines*, a reprint from a London issue, with part of the title reading: . . . *A Late Discovery of the Fourth Island in Terra Incognita, Being a True Relation of Certain English Persons who in the Dayes of Queen Elizabeth making a voyage to the East India were cast away and wrecked on the Island near the Coast of Terra Australia Incognita and all drowned except One man and Four Women* . . . , London, 1668. The "rashness and inadvertency" of Johnson led to a more careful scrutiny of Samuel Green's productions. This brought forth Green's own list of his Cambridge imprints, submitted to the Massachusetts Licensers of the Press. The minutes of the meeting are now preserved in the Massachusetts state archives:

"Att a Councill held at Boston 3 Sept 68

The warrants were read yt were sent for for Samuell Grene Printer &C.

Being askt what bookes he had printed for whom & by wt Authority he Ansrd a Drop of Honey he printed for himself; 2 ye Rule of ye new Creature: 3 ye way to a blessed Estate in this life. 4 The Assembly of Divines Catechise. 5 a narration of ye plague & fier at London. 6 Tidings from Rome the grand Trappan. 7 yt he had licenc for them all from: ye President & Mr Michelle & ye young mans monitor:"

Here, then, was evidence that *Tydings from Rome*, bearing no imprint as to publisher or place of publication, was a product of Samuel Green's Cambridge Press. Meaning of "the grand Trappan" noted beside the title remains a mystery. Nothing in the volume signifies so peculiar a designation.

The late Allyn B. Forbes, Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society, compared the title page of *Tydings of Rome* with the 1667 London edition. He discovered several differences in spelling which, in his opinion, would not have occurred had it been printed in London. Also, the dozen or so books bearing Baily's autograph all had local imprints. This autograph, "Jo Baily's Book, N.E., June 12, '86," appearing at the bottom of the title page of *Tydings of Rome*, adds to the rarity of Mr. Bulkeley's copy. Reverend John Baily was pastor at Watertown, Massachusetts, and later minister of the First Church of Boston. It is interesting to note that Baily's copy of Eliot's Indian Bible carries the same autograph, under date of January 1, 1687(8), six months after he inscribed his copy of *Tydings from Rome*.

While *Tydings from Rome* is to be remembered as one of the "lost

incunabula" of America prior to its purchase in 1917, the three volumes, also presented by Mr. Bulkeley, dealing with the Pequot War, are an equally fine and generous gift, important to this phase of Colonial history. In May, 1637, the General Court declared war on the Pequots and ninety men were placed under the command of Captain John Mason. Joined by Massachusetts men under Captain John Underhill, the Pequot fort at Mystic was surprised, burned, and all but seven braves slaughtered. The remaining Pequots fled and were caught in Sasqua Swamp, near the present town of Southport. To all intents and purposes, the Pequots ceased to exist as a separate tribe and the Connecticut settlers were spared future troubles with the Indians.

Of these splendid copies of the accounts of the Pequot War, *A True Relation of the late Battell fought in New England, between the English and the Pequet Salvages* is outstanding as it was the first work on the Indian Wars in New England. It is generally credited to Philip Vincent whose name is signed to some Latin verses, addressed to the reader, which follow the title. Since Vincent was not in New England at the time, his work is not as important as those of Underhill and Mason. The first edition, "Published in London, 1637," is very rare. Only four copies are listed in *Short Title Catalogue of English Books, 1475-1640*. There was a second edition in 1638, precisely the same as the first, and also rare.

In 1638, Captain Underhill published an extremely valuable volume entitled *News from America; or, A New and Experimental Discoverie of New England; Containing a True Relation of their War-like proceedings these two years last past, with a figure of the Indian fort, or Palizado.* The folding plate, showing "the figure of the Indian fort or Palizado in New England and the manner of destroying it by Captayne Underhill and Captayne Mason" is of particular interest. Fully half the copies extant lack the plate, or have it defective or in facsimile. The plate in this copy is original, and the watermark agrees with the copy at the John Carter Brown Library. It belonged to White Kennett and was #159 in the sale catalogue. It is beautifully bound by Riviere & Son.

The last account, generally considered to be the best, was that of John Mason: *A Brief History of the Pequot War: Especially of the Memorable Taking of their Fort at Mistick in Connecticut in 1637*, published by his grandson, the Reverend Thomas Prince, in 1736. Although this text had been printed by Increase Mather in his *Relation of the Troubles in 1677*, it was not realized until 1736 that Mather had published Mason's composition with credit to Mr. Allyn, Secretary of the Colony of Connecticut.

Mr. Bulkeley's gift of these three volumes now places the Society in select company with the John Carter Brown Library, the Henry E. Huntington Library, and the New York Public Library as proud owners of these rare Indian books of such importance to Connecticut.

News of the Society

As these lines are written June 21, no final decision concerning the auditorium has been reached. Robert H. Schutz, of Schutz and Goodwin, who planned the alterations to the main building and designed the book-stack, is the architect.

A Building Committee consisting of Ward S. Jacobs, Dr. H. Gildersleeve Jarvis, and the President, Vice-President and Director, are studying plans. Wadhams and May Company, contractors, are preparing cost figures.

Indirectly due to the proposed auditorium, permission to increase parking facilities from fifty to seventy-six cars was secured from the Zoning Board of Appeals. This addition should be completed this summer. Studies are also being made of the driveways in hopes of improving the traffic pattern.

Members admitted in May, 1955

Mrs. William H. Bulkeley
Clarence Earl Hale
Ethel Webster Hale
Mrs. David R. Hubbard
Edward F. Humphrey
Mrs. Derick A. January
Phyllis Kihn
Mrs. Horace B. Learned
Horace G. W. Moore
Eva B. Pease
Katharine L. Priest

Out of State Members Admitted February 1, 1955–May 5, 1955

Mrs. Albert Blanton
Farmville, N.C.

Mrs. W. Thomas Britton
Fort Worth, Texas

Helen G. Holley
Sturbridge, Mass.

Bertram K. Little
Brookline, Mass.

Mrs. J. P. Little
Topeka, Kans.

Mary H. Livermore
Pembroke, N.C.

Mrs. Ericsson F. McLaughlin
Evanston, Ill.

Mrs. Earl Meyer
Marshall, Mo.

Mrs. Margaret B. Munier
Sturbridge, Mass.

Mrs. Marcia M. Myers
Lewiston, Idaho

Mrs. George T. Parks
Lewiston, Idaho

Gerald James Parsons
Clyde, N.Y.

Mrs. Hugh D. Ransom
Freeport, Kans.

Eugene Davis Shapley
San Diego, Calif.

Corneil A. Sherman
Anchorage, Alaska

Mrs. Herbert E. Shinville
Walla Walla, Wash.

Holman J. Swinney
East Brimfield, Mass.

Ewart W. Tonner
Sturbridge, Mass.

William Mitchell Van Winkle
Rye, N.Y.

Mrs. C. W. Wester
Eugene, Ore.

Madeleine Wilkinson
Washington, D.C

Mrs. J. E. Williams
Marshall, Mo.

The Goodale Letters

An important phase of preservation is selection of materials. There can be no hard and fast rule, and just because a letter was written two hundred years ago does not necessarily make it of historical importance. The writer must record something of value which may have been news, but is now history. Opinions are important too, but a recital of aches and pains, and inquiry into Aunt Suzy's health and general complaints of hot or dry weather are not worthy of storage space and the expense of cataloguing. When light, heat, cleaning, burglar and fire protection are added together, shelf space is surprisingly costly.

The following group of letters recently purchased relative to the Goodale family of Glastonbury is a good example of the type of letters desired for research purposes. They illustrate a specific instance in western migration when it was at its height. The letters are worthy of attention in that they give an account of the early settlements of Buffalo and Auburn, New York, and Perkins and Parkman, Ohio. All are addressed to Ebenezer Goodale, Jr., an agent for the Glastenbury [sic] Glass Factory who, ironically, never left his native town though he wrote to friends and relatives, many of them neighbors from Glastonbury, with a view of purchasing land and joining them wherever they had settled.

Ebenezer Goodale, Jr., was baptized in Rocky Hill May 4, 1781, the eldest of ten children of Ebenezer and Jerusha (Hodge) Goodale. His first wife was Sally — — — — who died December 29, 1832. At her death the *Hartford Times* noted: "Died at Wethersfield—Rocky Hill of lung fever on the 29th of December Mrs. Sally Goodale, wife of Ebenezer Goodale, Esq. in the 48th year of her age. Publishers of newspapers in Buffalo, New York, Cleveland, Sandusky and Jefferson, Ohio are requested to give this notice a place in their papers." On April 28, 1833 Ebenezer Goodale, Jr. married a second time to the widow Levia (Mrs. Dennis) Rich of Bristol.

The census returns have been helpful in establishing that the son, and not the father, though both bear the same name, received the letters and was the one most concerned about establishing new residence outside the State. In 1800 one Ebenezer Goodale is listed in Glastonbury, age over 45, ten in the family. No entries are made for Ebenezer, Senior or Junior, in the Glastonbury census of 1810. In 1820, Glastonbury, both families are given: Ebenezer Goodale, over 45, eight in family; Ebenezer, Jr., under 45, ten in family. The Hodge genealogy states that the elder Ebenezer Goodale and his family moved to Buffalo, New York, in 1821, and to Jefferson, Ohio, in 1831 where his wife, Jerusha (Hodge) Goodale, died April 14, 1850, aged 91. Thereafter the census of 1830, Wethersfield, lists Ebenezer Goodale, Jr., age 40, eight in family; of 1840, Wethersfield, age over 50, eight in family. No further entries are made in the Connecticut census returns as Ebenezer Goodale, Jr. died in 1847.

The first of the series of letters to Ebenezer Goodale, Jr., then twenty-eight years old and living in Glastonbury, was written by his uncle, Benjamin Hodge, who was already located in Buffalo, New York:

Buffaloe July 7, 1809

Sir I received your letter dated May 16 on the fourth day of July and was glad to here that you ware all well—I have no remarcable news to inform you we all injoy a good State of health at present you inform me that you have sold your place I would advise you by all meens to come and look of this country before you purchase again perhaps you think it a great distance to move a famely but people are daly moeving on by here to New-Connecticut and other places from Connecticut and all parts of the new-england States I have seen a number of famelys within a few weeks past moving on from Middletown chatham and middlehaddam I understand by them there is more then twenty familys comeing from them plases this summer—

[I] live on the great rode within two miles of the out-let of Lake Erie which forms the river Niagara which is about thirty miles in length and Runs into Lake Ontario this river is at this place about 240 rods wide and 6 fathom deep, fish are plenty here, several hundred barels have bin caught within two or three miles of where I live this Spring about 20 sorts of fish are caught here all good but two or three sorts—this country is almost intirely clear of stone ecept what groes in querries, every man can suit himself with a farm here for here is all kinds of land and all sorts of timber except pichpine and shruboak the land here is of a good quality and produces all kinds of grain as good or better then the best part of connecticut in some places water is not so good and plenty as we wish for which is often the case in a good country of land but in general water is good and plenty much more so then in the genesee country, two days more makes up three years since I arived in this country it appears to be very helthy except where people settle on low marshy lands where peaple are apt to have the fever and agur but not so much as they do in the genesee country—

I like this place better then any place I ever lived in before and am determined never to move from here I have ten acres of wheat on the ground which looks very well and about six acres of corn I and Wm have about two hundred acres of land and about 40 acres of improvement we gave five Dollars pr acre for it besides paying between five and Six hundred Dollars for the improvement, on [acco]unt of its being on a large rode and a thick set[tled] place—unimproved land is seling from two Dollars 25 cents to three Dollars 50 cents pr acre of an excellent quality ten years to pay it in and two years without interest—

Merchants goods are plenty here seling about 25 pr cent dearer then in connecticut—hum-made cloth stockings and miling will sell well here in the fall—a courthouse jail and a number of large buildings are going on here this summer, our goods comes chiefly from albany by water our Iron and iron ware from pittsburg by water and our potash is sent to Mountreall by water where it fetches as a good a price as at New-York—

flower is now seling for three Dollars pr hundred corn has lately rise from 50 cents to 75 cents pr bushel pork 15 Dollars pr barel—our catle are drove to Philadelphia to market which is about three hundred miles—

you want me to inform you the rode here I will inform you, you must as soon as you get ready take the turnpike rode neer your own dore and ride a prety good jog to Hartford which is about 12 miles then to albany about 100

miles then on to utica 94 miles then Cayuga bridge 82 miles then to genase 14 miles then to Canendaigua 16 miles then to betava 56 miles then to Buffaloe 40 miles making in all 414 miles about ten or eleven days ride and the worst part of it is to get ready and set out—you tell me you are going to Susquehanah this spring I hope you are not going to purchase a place there for people are daly moving from that country into this—I wish you not to take my word for the recommend of this country I wish you to come and look for yourself I should rite more perticular to you was not I in hopes you would come and see us I wish you to write to us again and let us know when you are coming

So I conclude for this time BENJAMIN HODGE

Mr. Ebenezer Goodale Jr

Benjamin Hodge, the author of this letter and brother of Jerusha, was born February 1, 1753, and married April 9, 1780 to Sarah Churchill. In 1775, at the age of 22, he went on a whaling voyage. During the Revolution he enlisted in Captain Hale's Company, Colonel Erastus Wolcott's Regiment, and for a time was stationed at Lake George, New York. The town records of Glastonbury, 1783, indicate he taught school there for a short time. Ten years later Benjamin Hodge moved to Richfield, Oswego County, New York. From there, in 1798, he removed to Exeter, New York, finally settling in 1806 at Buffalo where his son, William Hodge, had settled the previous year. A description of this trip is given in the Hodge genealogy: In July of 1806 the party proceeded from the Mohawk River to Oneida Lake, from Oswego River to Lake Ontario, from Lake Ontario to the Niagara River. They followed the river to Niagara Falls, where the flatboats were put on wagons drawn by oxen, to Schosser just above the American side of Niagara River. From this point they side-tracked up-river to Buffalo Creek, their destination. Benjamin Hodge was an eye-witness to the burning of Buffalo by the British and is described as wearing knee-buckles, Continental style, long after they were out of fashion and, according to the Hodge genealogy, he "was probably the last in Buffalo to discard them." Benjamin Hodge and his wife are both buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York.

The next letter, December 1, 1817, is from Benoni Buck of Parkman, Ohio. He was born April 9, 1791, the son of Benoni and Lucretia (Hollister) Buck of Glastonbury. He died March 6, 1823 at Parkman, Ohio, aged 32, having lived there only eight years. His widow Lucy (Hollister) Buck, whom he married November 17, 1812, married a second time to Jesse Allen of Perkins, Ohio. She died at Perkins November 24, 1849.

Parkman December 1st 1817

Sir Agreable to your request I improve this oppertunity to write a few lines to you informing you that I and my family are well together with my friends and connections which are on here, I am pleased to think you took the troubble to write to me for the first time which gave me information concerning the wellfare of my friends and acquaintance likewise of yourself & family you told me in the above mentioned letter that you had some contemplations of comeing into this western Cuntry and desiring me to give

you some information concirning the same I will endeavour to according to the best of my judgment, with regard to the town of Nelson It is as good a township of land perhaps as any other that joins Parkman it is in the county of Portage 15 miles from the County town. I have ben through the town mostly and I have not seen any ledge of any acount but if that should not sute you we have land in this town I presume will and at the same price we have good water and it is as helthy as it is in old Connec[t] our game consis of Deer Turky elk some Bare and wolfs but not very troublesome our small game consists of coon squirrels in abundance hedgehogs opossum wildcats but no painters orters beavers mink muskrat with regard to produce people tell of raising 50 bushels wheat and 110 bushels of corn to the acre in diferant parts of the State I cant say but that it has ben done but here in this town our land if it is well tended will produce 20 & 25 bushels wheat to the acre & 40 of corn the seasons I think are warmer here then in old Connec[t] people in a general way fodder thear young cretys nearly fore months in a year. The woods abound in the summer with grass and erbage for cattle so that our cattle get to be good beef in the summer, with regard to our laws I think they are good thare is but little said about politicks, with regard to surveying some say two some say three dollars per day mills are considerable plenty thare is not many meeting houses built yet, but we have meetings and schools in all most every place but I should mutch rether you would call and see for yourself I shall not be vary peticular for I expect Brother Hollister will be the carrier and he can give you more verbal information than what I can with my pen therefore I will bring my letter to a close by subscribing myself your affectionate friend

BENONI BUCK

From an acquaintance in Auburn, New York, Ebenezer Goodale, Jr. received the following letter:

Auburn Oct 4[th] 1818

Sir Yours from Windham [ ] of Sept 7[th] is duly Rec[d] sometime since—I have no excuse to plead for omitting writing so long except the Licence in yours to "write as soon as convenient"—and even now have nothing to send you really worth the postage. I think I need not tell you I was truly please[d] to hear from my old Friend and patron—nothing new here, although every thing is in motion—I can tell you of the Shaker tenanted by 80 or 100 sinning sons of Adam—the Gaol—occupied by some 5 or 6 promising candidates for the same denier resort of crime, infamy and misfortune—The Rev[d] D. C. Lansing is getting up an opposition line, alias "Theological Seminary" whether it will have as salutary effect in foiling Iniquity as the S. Prison is, I think, to say the least, a little problematical—in this machine, Presbytirians are to be metamorphased into Divines, in the twinkling of a snow-flea's eye —beshrew the odds, in colour or talents so as he professes the Doctrines of Election capacity has nothing to do with Divinity—to be sure, a decent long physiognomy is requisite; but this is easily acquired by copying a few grimaces from a Jack-ass—if any young fellow finds a difficulty in getting honest bread or feels a very natural antipathy to the Business call[d] Labour, or

has the modesty to doubt his capacity for this Business, here is his work Board, Clothes, and washing, free as methodist grace missionary and cent Society's are as natural and spontaneous productions of *this* country as mushrooms in Ireland, or stones of Eastbury—a new bank is going up here and a No. of new brick buildings others by dozens—the canal is progressing very fast they will soon however have to stop for this season

I have resumed my Dancing Business a tolerable prospect—the ensuing fall and winter—I have just finished one quarter here, and expect to commence another in about 4 weeks—am in good health—as heavy as a Buck—have fatted up since you saw me wonderfully—I shall be in Glastenbury sometime next May—

My respects [to] Mrs. Goodale, particularly and mention me to Capt. Hollister and Lady Mr & Mrs. Blish—Mrs. Hunt and family in short all those who take the trouble to inquire about me—I wrote to my father and brother a few days ago, so will not trouble you with any message to them having nothing more to say, I subscribe myself

Yours truly

L. ROBINSON

P. S. I shall expect you will write me as soon as you find leisure—tell me how your Constitution comes on—if you dont write before, write me as soon as the Legislature determine upon it—if you can send me the 1st news of its ratification it shall have an insertion in the "patriot" I will then send you some No^{s} of the paper. NB. (it is a Republican paper) till then, farewell

L.R.

I had like to have forgotten
Mr. H. Hollister. Mention me
agreeably to him and Lady

On May 8, 1820 Ebenezer Goodale, Jr. heard from William Hodge in Buffalo, New York:

Buffalo May 8th 1820

Dear Sir

I recd yours a short time since which gave me much satisfaction to hear from you and as you have given me a detail of your family and circumstances &c since I last saw you, it is now my turn to inform you respecting mine. My family are six in number two sons and four daughters all in good health—for the most part of the time since I have been in this Country untill since the war I have been very successfull—During the war I gained property very fast although subject to many losses—I had built me a house and finished it—soon after it was burned by the British troops my Damages was appraised at upwards of Six thousand Dollars. I made application to government for redress and rec^{d} Four Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars—

I still flattered myself with good fortune not making any Calculation on the turn of times which Experience has taught me must always be expected after a war—I embark^{d} in various kinds of Business being very anxous for gain—Some Mercantile Business, and drove on my shop or Fanning Mill business pretty Extensively expecting that I could sell property for Cash as I had done

and was connected with others in Business greatly to my disadvantage in Consequence of which I have had a large amount of property Fanning Mills &c on hand which I could not sell oweing to the turn of times & Scarsity of Mony

I have had near $3000 to pay for others where I have lent my name for their Accomodation in consequence of that and the presure of the times I have been in danger of having property sacrifised but I hope to get along without further trouble which I can do if I can sell property for half the value and leave me a hansome property I have never traveled in the State of Ohio and cannot give you that information which you want only by information—the Sandusky Country is said to be very good land but many places unhealthy it is about 200 miles from this place —I dont doubt but there is many places in Ohio that you may better your situation, but I should recommend near the River [Basin?] about 30 miles below Detroit near the Lake —it is said to be a fine tract of land and tolerable Healthy—My sister Clarissa who married a man by the name of Ailsworth lives near that place —They inform us that they are doing very well—it is attended with a good deal of Expence to moove so far although the rodes are much better than they have been—I should recommend going from this place near Detroit by water as much the cheapest—

It is uncertain where the Canal will connect with Niagara river but is expected within a few miles of this place—They are Building a harbour this Season at the Mouth of Buffalo Creek which is expected to connect with the Canal—I do not like to advise you Respecting Mooving into the Western Country for fear that you may be disappointed but I am inclined to belive you would better your situation—Yours with Esteem

WM HODGE

My fathers family who live nea[r] me are well—Loring is maried and lives in our Village has two children—Alfred was Married last winter talks of mooving to Maihilimackinack this Spring

This William Hodge, the son of Benjamin (see letter: Buffalo, July 7, 1809) was born July 2, 1781. He married Sally Abbott on March 25, 1802, the daughter of Daniel Abbott of Exeter, Oswego County, New York, who moved to Hamburn, Erie County, New York in 1810. *The Centennial History of Erie County* by Crisfield Johnson states that William Hodge settled on Lot 35, now the corner of Main and Utica streets, Buffalo, New York, with his wife and two children in 1805. In 1811 he built a brick hotel on the same lot, "brick tavern on the hill", which some believe to be the first brick hotel in America. He was also proprietor of the first nursery in the country, and started the manufacturing of fanning mills. Tradition relates that he went by foot to a place near Utica, paid a man to teach him how to make the screens, and returned home with the secret which he put to use. On December 26, 1838 the Buffalo Bank, with William Hodge as one of its incorporators, was organized with a capital of $100,000. In the panic of 1837 the bank failed and Hodge, being the largest stockholder, lost nearly $80,000, which he in time regained.

William Hodge was already a prominent citizen in Buffalo when the British burned the city on December 30, 1813. He did not believe the Americans would lose the War of 1812, and was one of the last to evacuate his family to Harris Hill. His brick building had just been completed and the merchants of Buffalo took advantage of it for safe storage in the event of an attack. Hodge expected the militia to make a stand on the hill near his house. His house was the last to be burned, both from the point of time and distance, from the village. The hotel was rebuilt of the old brick, was later torn down, and a new building erected on the old stand, the original Lot 35. William Hodge died September 18, 1848, and his wife survived him until March 9, 1868.

Julius House of Perkins, Ohio wrote to Ebenezer Goodale, Jr. on May 18, 1820, and again on January 10, 1821:

Perkins May 18th 1820

Dear Sir This is to inform you that I reiceved your letter the 8th of this month informing me of the health of your famely was good and it was a Jeneral time of health in that place in the first place inform you of the health of my famely which is good at present and has been ever since I have been in this Country as good as we ever had it in Connecticut in this respect we have ben favourd above meny of our Neighbours although our Settlement have enjoyed good health in Jeneral excepting last fall there was a good many cases of augur in this place ten times as much as ever we had before since we came to this Country—I feel pleased with my situation and have never yet been sorry that i came to this place i can maintain my famely as easy again as I could in that Place I have had good crops ever since I came to this place I will now give you the true statement of our crops as near i can which you may rely upon to be the truth in the first place of Wheat I should say from 15 to 20 on an average corn from 30 to forty and some to 70 the second year that I came on here I state for the truth i had over Sixty bushels per acre i had all of that take my peace together as for potatoes you can raice a knough of them for all the Irish men in Ireland both do well if the ground is not to rich so that they will not berry well but be all straw and is the same with buckwheat in short it is good for all kinds of produce so good that I should be loth to come back to Eastbury again to hoe all summer for twenty or thirty bushels of corn I jenerally hoe my corn once and cut the weds down again and then it leaves it clean all the Season excepting the black land is more subject to weads As for the price of our crops are at present very low on the account of money being so scarce in this country at present all our money goes to the Eastern to the land-holders that live there wheat one $1.00 per bushel in trade but we can buy cheaper for good money corn fifty cents oats thirty seven and half cents potatoes the same Buckwheat the same beans one Dollar & twenty five cents we carry our produce to the bay in our own town its carried from there to Detroit and [Malden?] and other parts of the Lake I have found good market for all that i have had and could four times as much more if i had it to put of i have been a building most all the time that i have been here and get such things as i want for building but have got but verry little money for any thing since i have ben here as for hay we have thousands of that which is the

natural groth of our County that which will cattle well threw the winter but in our Settlement we have now just begun to cut english grass but I shall cut some considerable this seson i have about 200 hundred fruit trees set out and what i have seen of fruit trees they do well in this part of the County their is sum that have good orchards in this country and look as thrifty as ever i see trees in my life as for Wm Eldingers land i have been on it but once or twice i think not it lies about 15 or 20 miles from where we live and have to come threw our Settlement to go to the bay but there is a place of considerable trade about half way between where we live and that place called the Indian Village a place of considerable note one large flowering mill three stories high two good sawmills a carding milleme and a clothiers works now in opperation on the river Huron about six miles from my house there is a road laid out from that place to the Bay right by my house

I wright verry crooked and are in a great hurry indeed but i want to tell you little more about that land i dont stick verry tite to my text i acknowledge his land is of good soil but heavy timber what i have seen of it is cheifley whitewood and chestnut but i think there is a great deal of white oak but i do not think that it would suit you now the Situation of it I should advise you to sell what property you have and embark for this place and then you can see for yourself if was there in even should trade my lands for lands here unless I could get them that suitted me i want to come and see you and all my friends in that place but i cannot at present i have so much business on hand I am this season building me a dwelling house and i must be at home to see about it pork and beef are low at pr[esent] they bring thousands of it from the South to the Bay from 3 or 4 countys and flower is from 4 to 5 dollars per barel buter and cheese 12½ cents pr pound at this time all though we sell all our buter to the Merchants for goods at 16 cents cotten shirten is from 37½ cents to 50 cents yard cotten goods would do well here now i cant write nothing if could see you one our i should be glad some things i have wrote twice over and some i have not wrote at all give my love to my brother and his famely and all my old Neighbors land is low for cash and men will do well with money there is good farms to be let in most of the towns in this place if you want to know any more write to me and i will write to you about it in a scrabling way

So I remain your Friend

JULIUS HOUSE

[Perkins, January 10, 1811]

Honored Friend this is to inform you that I reicved your letter the first of this month informing me of your health and that of your famely and all our friends in that Country was good I recevd you letter with Satisfaction and with the greatis pleasure answer the few qestions you have Desired me to answer after i have informed you that the health of my famely is good and all the Settlement at present is injoying the Same blesing in the first place i will give my Opinion Respecting M[r] Andrews in this town there is at the present none of that trade and I think it would be as good a stand as there is in this Country in our Settlement there is work a knough for one

Shoemaker all the time and we are very much put to it to git work done we can help him in anything that he would want excepting cash and perhaps sum of that but we have to pay up the morgage on our land and we pay all that we can git but he can set up his trade without much cash Hydes five Dollars per hundred and bark one Dollar fifty cents or Two Dollars per cord to the works or he can git it for pealing a great part of it I should advize him to bring all his tooles on with him that he wants for Curring and all that he can bring conveniently my canded opinion is the best thing that he can do to come on here and set up his trade all our friends are anxeous to have him come on here and set up his trade Respecting what you wrote to me about yourself I think it would be a good place for you and your famely in this Country for farming but as Repspecting Bus'ng of any it is dull at present there [is] no office in this County that is lucrative excepting Sherriffs Office and we have chosen a Sheriff this winter and I can give no encouragement on account of Business at present Cotten goods are in good demand this place and are worth from 50 to 62½ cents *per yard* according to the width and quality if a man is coming into this Country he will do well to bring any kind of goods with him he can git any kind of provition that he wants but money is scarce and hard to be got at this time i think that Andrews will do well to bring on all that he can shoes and all other artikles that he can bring if he never set up his trade here he can do better by farming than he can there or he can git a good living by Shoemaking in our settlement for any artikles that he brings of clothing he can git pork and wheat and all kinds of provisions that he wants and as quick as he can for cash perhaps not quite so cheap my Sonskin tea is worth $1.50 cents per lb the best kind of green tea $2.00 per lb I am in such a hurry that I hardly know what to write as the mail is now going out and I expect it wil before I can get it to the Office I am sorry that it is so at this time I want to tel you all about it but you must do the best you can with it Help him to come and we wil help him when he gits here Read my scrablings if you can and make the best of them that you can give my love to all enquiring friends

So I subscribe myself you friend

JULIUS HOUSE

Julius House, son of William and Elizabeth (Risley) House was baptized in Glastonbury March 22, 1787. He was one of 10 children, was orphaned at the age of fifteen, and his twin sister Julia (later the wife of Jesse Taylor) was under the guardianship of Benoni Buck. Julius House married February 5, 1807 to Mehitable Hollister, and died at Perkins, Ohio. Mrs. House died in Toledo. Their children were Norris, Lindsley, Clarrissa, Mary, Harriet, Julia and Amelia House.

This House family was one of fourteen which went from Hartford County to Ohio by ox team in the fall of 1815. They were of the group eligible for the Fire Land Grants involving 500,000 acres in the western part of New Connecticut. The name evolved when Connecticut, in 1792, donated the lands to the sufferers by fire, particularly in New London, Fairfield and Norwich, Connecticut, occasioned by the British in the Revolution.

The first permanent settler in Perkins township, where Julius House

and his family located, was Thomas James, an Irishman who emigrated to Ohio in 1810, having purchased his land in Connecticut without having seen it. He was accompanied by John Beatty whose object was to explore the country with a view of buying large tracts of it to sell to settlers from the east. Beatty was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1769, and came to America in 1800. With his new bride, he settled in New London, Connecticut, engaged in foreign trade and was the owner of several vessels. When he removed with his family to Ohio in 1813, he was the owner of 40,000 acres of land in Perkins and its vicinity.

The next settlement in Perkins was made in 1813 by four refugee families from Canada—Christian Winters, John Freese, Stephen Russell, and David Cunningham—who left their country rather than take the oath of allegiance following the War of 1812.

The next, and largest, colony came in the fall of 1815 at the instigation of John Beatty, and included the families of Julius House, Joseph Taylor, Eleazur Bell, Jesse Taylor, Phinney Johnson, Harvey Covell, Roswell Eddy, Roswell Hubbard, Holcy Aikins, Richard P. Christophers, William Robbinson, William R. Beebe, Eleazer Lockwood by way of Canada, and several single men. A description of this trip is given in *Fire Land Pioneer*, Volume 6, "Personal Reminiscences of the Settlement of Perkins: of Jesse Taylor and Others," by Truman B. Taylor. The party left September 15, 1815, with 700 miles of unbroken road ahead, reaching Hartford the first day. From Hartford to Buffalo, New York took three days, with the roads leaving Buffalo the worst of the entire trip. The author quotes, in the language of (Mrs. Jesse) (Julia House) Taylor: "We would unyoke the oxen, unharness the horses, and turn them into pasture. Then taking our prepared provisions consisting of bread, bacon, butter and cheese, etc., we would go out into some friendly settlers cabin, and having ate our frugal meal, we would spead our beds on the floor and then soon fall asleep. We often got out of provisions and had to buy of the settlers on the road, or else we would stop a day to cook and wash and have a general overhall of things." Julius House was not without his problems on this trip. His small son, Norris G. House, fell in front of a wagon "having on [it] nearly 1600 weight." Both wagon wheels passed over him without apparent injury. By the time the party reached Erie, Pennsylvania, Julius House was too ill with fever to continue. He stayed at Erie with his brother-in-law, Jesse Taylor, while the party went on without him. Outside of Erie, the colony overtook a man with a five-mule team on his way to Missouri, 1000 miles beyond their destination, but far enough for the party to wonder if they would ever reach Ohio. At Parkman, Ohio, Benoni Buck (see letter, December 1, 1817) and his family left the party to visit relatives already living there. He remained in Parkman until his death in 1823, when his widow, one daughter and four sons, removed to Perkins.

It took two days for the colony to travel from Cleveland to Florence, Erie County, Ohio where they stayed the night. They then proceeded to Huron River "where Abbott's Bridge now stands which was the county seat." There they met Father Jeffery from New York, and the party, now consisting of eight families, were invited in. They remained with him a week, waiting for John Beatty to bring up the rear. Lands were purchased

from Mr. Beatty and settlements made, but since there were no houses, the group visited neighbors in West Huron until suitable buildings could be erected. It was two or three weeks before the first cabin was built in Perkins township, and several families moved into it while others were being erected. Mrs. Taylor remembers the scarcity of timber, for her husband "went to Cold Creek, nine miles, for floor boards . . . he had to stay two days and there had to split puncheons to finish the lower floor." She went on to say, "The settlers raised large quantities of potatoes. It was not considered an overly big yield to get four hundred bushels to the acre. Money was scarce at this time, and nearly all purchasing was done by an exchange of the different productions. The settlers found much difficulty in breaking up the tough prairie sod. The roots of the grass were so firmly matted together that it took six yoke of cattle to pull the plow through. The plough was a cumbersome affair compared to those of the present day; the beam was about twelve feet long, with a wooden mole board, and they had to put a large stone in it to make it balance. Provision was comparitively high. Wheat, $2.00 per bushel; corn, $1.00; pork, 12½ cents per pound. Our clothing was 'home made'. We raised our flax, then dressed, spun and wove it into cloth."

Certainly Ebenezer Goodale, Jr. was actively interested in purchasing land. From the year 1809 to 1821 he consistently inquired of his friends for information, and would seem to have been encouraged by what he heard. One letter (see letter, July 7, 1809) indicates he had already made a purchase, sold it, and was thinking in terms of the Susquehanah Valley as a new home. On April 23 and May 3, 1821 he received letters from Elisha Denison of New London, Connecticut, concerning property belonging to nine wards, children by the name of Ledyard, and involving nearly 9000 acres of land in New London, Ohio and Canterbury, Ohio. Denison, however, changed his mind and the sale was not completed. On June 7, 1821 Frederick Miner of New London, Connecticut wrote to Goodale: " . . . I have about 3600 acres of land lying in the 4th Section of the town of Eldridge, County of Huron (Ohio) and within about five miles of the shore of Lake Erie about 2000 acres of which is now under contract and the articles of annual interest which I am willing to exchange for landed property in this State if the situation and quality of the land suits me. . . . I do believe the land I am offering to exchange is of a very excellent quality, well watered and very advantageously situated on which there are from 20 to 25 families which have handsome clearings and some orcharding, and are in a very good way of life, and it would be very much more pleasant and more accomodating to move into such a settlement than to where the lands were not settled at all."

Whatever his reasons, Ebenezer Goodale, Jr. remained in Connecticut, appearing on the censuses of 1820, 1830 and 1840 as stated previously. On February 18, 1847 he died at Rocky Hill, where he is buried. An obituary of Edna Elizabeth Rich, daughter of Levia Rich Goodale, indicates that Mrs. Goodale was living in Elizabeth, New Jersey prior to her death October 22, 1871. Though Ebenezer Goodale, Jr. failed to play an active part in emigration to Ohio in the 1800's, the several letters he received are an interesting and valuable commentary on early pioneer life in America.

UNIDENTIFIED SILVER

A great deal has been written about American silver. Much is known about many of the silversmiths and it is rare when the maker of a piece of silver cannot be identified.

Recently, a member brought in a ladle and two beakers, dated "1795", which had belonged to Major John Hutchinson Buell of Hebron. These pieces are plainly marked "A.V." In our opinion the silver is American and careful search of all printed sources and consultation with numerous silver authorities have proved fruitless. Anyone having information as to the identity of "A.V.", kindly communicate with the Director.

Silver beaker, dated 1795, from the Buell family of Hebron, with unidentified touch-mark "A.V."

GENEALOGICAL LOAN COLLECTION

For a number of years the Society has stored a large genealogical library owned by the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants. Since they were largely duplicates of the reference collection, they have been of little use and until recently were dead storage. This situation was thoroughly discussed with officers of the Mayflower Society and it was decided to combine this collection with the Charles G. Woodward Genealogical Loan Collection, making the collection available for use by this Society's members and those of the Mayflower Society. There are roughly 200 family genealogies, 200 town histories of Connecticut, 50 town histories of Massachusetts and 88 volumes of Massachusetts Vital Records. In addition, there are such series as *Narragansett Historical Register, Old Northwest Genealogical Quarterly, Plymouth Colony Records, Essex Antiquarian, The Genealogist, The Mayflower Descendant* and *Connecticut Magazine.*

It will take some time to catalogue this collection but when completed a list of titles available in the Loan Collection will be published and distributed to interested persons. Members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants will be eligible to borrow on the same terms as members of this Society.

The Historical Society would be pleased to consider, for publication in the *Bulletin,* articles of historical interest to Connecticut. Address manuscripts to: Editor, Connecticut Historical Society, 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford 5, Conn.

The Connecticut Historical Society

HARTFORD 5 CONNECTICUT

Chartered 1825

Gentlemen:

I herewith enclose admission fee of $5.00 and make application for .....* membership in The Connecticut Historical Society, located in Hartford, and if admitted, I agree to conform to the By-laws of the Society.

(Name in full) .....

(Residence) .....

Place of Birth, ... Date of Birth, ...

Where Educated, ... Occupation, ...

..... 19.....

I hereby recommend the above application.

.....

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Active, $5.00 dues
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Program Schedule

1955–1956

October 4, 1955	Mrs. Frances Edwards, Suffield, "THE ROMANCE OF HANDMADE PAPER"
November 1, 1955	Mrs. Haven Parker, Boston, Massachusetts, "200 YEARS OF AMERICAN PAINTING"
December 6, 1955	Glenn Weaver, New London, "JONATHAN TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT'S MERCHANT MAGISTRATE"
January 3, 1956	Lyent W. Russell, New Haven, "INDIAN SITES IN CONNECTICUT"
February 7, 1956	Carrol G. A. Means, Woodbridge, "VALENTINES"
March 6, 1956	Thomas H. Ormsbee, Pound Ridge, New York, "KNOW YOUR HEIRLOOMS"
April 3, 1956	Henry S. Kelly, Hamden, "EARLY CONNECTICUT MEETING HOUSES"
May 1, 1956	Film

Exhibitions

MECHANICAL TOY BANKS
June through September, 1955
Gallery 2

NATHAN HALE, Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Nathan Hale
Started June 4, 1955
Gallery 3

PANORAMIC VIEWS OF CONNECTICUT
Started February 1, 1955
Gallery 1

COINS FROM THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTION
Started April 23, 1955
First Floor Exhibition Room